



**California Marine Life
Protection Act Initiative**
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

August 2, 2005

From: Michael DeLapa, Central Coast Project Manager
To: Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (CCRSG)
Re: Responses to request for information

Besides responding to questions raised by the CCRSG at its most recent meeting, MLPA Initiative staff have also sought to respond to questions raised by individual members since the July meeting. Below are responses to questions submitted by Jay Elder. If you have further questions or comments, please contact Mike Weber at mleoweber@aol.com.

In the future, we ask that individuals submit questions in writing, including email. To the extent that time and resources permit, MLPAL staff will prepare responses to questions from individuals.

- 1) *Please provide the list of recommended economic studies proposed earlier to the Initiative staff or the BRTF.*

It is unclear which suggested studies are meant.

- 2) *Can we use staff resources and MLPA (SAT & CCRWG) related data from the National Marine Fisheries Service? If yes, provide a list of available data.*

Staff is assembling available information from NOAA Fisheries and other sources for inclusion in the regional profile.

- 3) *Why are we not mapping the recreational fisheries efforts similar to the commercial fisheries mapping program?*

Information on the distribution of recreational fishing effort is available through the recreational fish surveys and logbook data from CPFVs. This is the best readily available data for recreational fishing.

- 4) *Provide all SAT "Scope of Work(s)" for each assigned task from Initiative staff.*

Questions from the CCRSG to the SAT are handled through the process described to the CCRSG.. Any other requests to the SAT (e.g., for guidance on biogeographic regions or review of sections of the Master Plan Framework) are available in records of SAT public meetings.

- 5) *Provide list of recommended studies, not covered in #1 above, that any member of the SAT may have suggested to the Initiative staff or the BRTF.*

All SAT meetings are public and, to the best of our knowledge, any suggested study was discussed at those meetings.

- 6) *Provide a summary and statement of relevancy to the current MLPA Initiative, of the NOAA Oceans 2000 Initiative Effort titled "The National Ocean Economic Program: The Contribution of the Ocean Sector to the US (sic California) Economy"*

The National Ocean Economics Program's report "1990-2000 State Summary of Coastal and Ocean Social and Economic Trends" provides information of general use to the MLPA Initiative. However, since the analyses summarize trends across the entire state rather than by region, they have somewhat limited relevance to the central coast project. The Initiative is investigating whether it is possible to obtain information specific to the central coast region.

- 7) *What is your best guess of the Central Coast study region of the State's gross ocean economic contribution to the state's economy? List the sectors that contribute to this ocean economy in this study region.*

The Initiative is investigating whether it is possible to obtain information specific to the central coast region that would allow this kind of analysis. Statewide, the following sectors contribute to the state's coastal economy, according to the NOEP report mentioned above:

California's Ocean Economy Gross State Product (GSP) by Sector				
Sector	Direct GSP in \$ Millions	Indirect and Induced GSP in \$ Millions	Total GSP in Millions	Multiplier
Tourism and Recreation	12,426	9,941	22,668	1.8
Transportation	7,387	10,342	17,728	2.4
Ship & Boat Building	493	395	888	1.8
Living Resources	403	323	726	1.8
Minerals	416	291	706	1.7
Construction	309	309	618	2.0

For a variety of reasons, the NOEP report somewhat underestimates economic activity in the living resources sector, which is composed primarily of commercial fishing activities. Economic activity generated by recreational fishing is some part of the tourism and recreation sector.

- 8) *What is your best guess of the study region's natural resource economic values?*

These values have not been quantified and are not quantifiable with available information.

- 9) *Considering the concept of both sustainable development and marine resources in the study area, suggest a framework for integrating economic and environmental issues to guide the decisions of this CCRWG for the MLPA task.*

The MLPA explicitly discusses economic considerations in two places. In Section 2855(c)), the MLPA states: "The department and team, in carrying out this chapter, shall take into account relevant information from local communities, and shall solicit comments and advice for the

master plan from interested parties on issues including, but not necessarily limited to, each of the following:

- (1) Practical information on the marine environment and the relevant history of fishing and other resources use, areas where fishing is currently prohibited, and water pollution in the state's coastal waters.
- (2) Socioeconomic and environmental impacts of various alternatives....

In Section 2857, the MLPA states: "The department and team shall develop a preferred siting alternative that incorporates information and views provided by people who live in the area and other interested parties, including economic information, to the extent possible while maintaining consistency with the goals of Section 2853 and guidelines in subdivision (c) of this section."

This language reflects the Legislature's balancing of economic considerations with the conservation goals of the statute.

- 10) *Draft a letter for the CCRWG to sign for both the Federal and state fisheries agencies to produce coastal community's economic data base(s) before adoption of additional regulations or new MPA's.*

NOAA Fisheries is completing community profiles that should be available in September. Central coast communities that will be profiled include Avila Beach, Monterey Bay, Morro Bay, Moss Landing, and Santa Cruz. These profiles will include information on each community's demographics, infrastructure, economy, history, and involvement in fisheries. The MLPA does not require that such information be provided prior to adoption of additional regulations or MPAs.

- 11) *Provide a summary of relevancy to the current MLPA task, of the "National Oceans Economic Program" (see <http://noep.csumb.edu/research.html> Linwood Pendleton was a contributor).*

See response to question 6 above.

- 12) *Provide a list of Ocean economy sectors and industries in the central coast study region that contribute to the state's economy.*

See response to question 7 above.

- 13) *Submit a proposal for the establishment of a baseline of economic factors (sectors and industries) including costs and timeline for existing conditions for future comparison of effects of any new MPA's.*

The monitoring program that will be developed in the central coast process will take up this request. See the master plan framework discussion of monitoring and evaluation programs.

- 14) *What is the difference between coastal and ocean economies? Which one relates better to this MLPA effort?*

Ocean economies require direct dependence on the marine environment, while coastal economies include all activities in the coastal zone—that is, both land and sea. Both economic sectors are relevant to the MLPA effort. See the response to question 9 above.

15) *What is the value of commercial and sport fishing activities in coastal communities in relationship to tourism values and attraction?*

See the response to question 7 above regarding statewide comparisons. The Initiative is seeking information specific to the central coast region.

16) *Is the ocean/coastal economy more sensitive to change in the rural areas than the urban areas?*

There is no readily available information on this matter for the central coast or for the state.